

. . Fourth Annual Report . .  
ON THE  
CHERTSEY  
URBAN DISTRICT,  
— BY —  
E. L. JACOB,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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→ 1898. ←

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CONTENTS :

- I. STATISTICS for the Year. (BIRTHS AND DEATHS).
  - II. SUMMARY OF SICKNESS and MORTALITY during the year from the SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES, and from certain other Diseases, to which the INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889, applies, and of the ACTION taken to prevent their spread.
  - III. SUMMARY OF OTHER PROCEEDINGS taken, during the Year, under the Sanitary Acts, &c.
  - IV. APPENDIX, containing certain TABLES.
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Prepared in accordance with Section 14 of the Order of the Local Government Board dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

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CHERTSEY :  
RAWLINGS & WALSH, "Herald" Printing Works.



The District Comprises	-	The Parish of Chertsey.
Area of District	-	10,077 Acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses at Census 1881	-	1742.
„ „ „ „		1891 - 2139.
Population at Census	-	1881 - 9215.
„ „	-	1891 - 11,298.

### I. Statistics for the Year: (Births and Deaths.)

(See also Table at the end of the Report.)



## II.—Summary of Sickness and Mortality, during the year, from the seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, and from certain other diseases to which the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, applies, and of the action taken for preventing their spread.

1.—*Small-pox*. No case of this disease was reported.

2.—*Measles* caused one death, which took place in the Workhouse.

3.—*Whooping Cough* caused one death.

4.—Of *Scarlet Fever*, otherwise called *Scarlatina*, one case occurred in October at Chertsey, and the patient was removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital.

5.—*Diphtheria*. In *January*, four children in a Home at Ottershaw were found to be suffering from Diphtheria and were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Three others in the Home had "suspicious sore throats" at the same time but were kept under observation there, as the Diphtheria bacillus could not be isolated from swabs which were applied to their throats.

On *February 15th*, a child was brought to Addlestone from Aldershot, and failed the same day with diphtheria, from which he died on February 18th.

In *April*, two children living in a cottage at Stone Hill, were attacked with this disease and were removed to the hospital.

In *July* and *August*. A child in Grove Road, Chertsey, failed with this disease on July 18th, three days after her return from a visit of 14 days to London. She died on August 5th, and on the next day, one of her brothers was found to be suffering from it. Later in August a girl living in an adjoining cottage in Grove Road was attacked with it. On July 29th, a woman went from Chertsey on a visit to Datchet and returned to a house in Albert Place, Chertsey, on August 2nd, ill with what proved to be diphtheria. She was removed to the hospital on August 4th.

On *October 1st*, a man living in another house in Albert Place, Chertsey, was pronounced to be suffering from diphtheria and was removed on the same day to the hospital. On October 10th a boy living in St. Ann's Road, Chertsey, and on October 18th one living at Woodham, were attacked with the disease.

On *November 8th*, a boy living at Goose Pool, Chertsey, had a slight attack of it.

Between *November 29th* and *December 6th*, six children in two cottages under the same roof in Gogmore Lane, Chertsey, were found to be suffering from diphtheria and were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where two of them died. The doctor, who had been in attendance on them, contracted the disease, and a man and his wife and three children, who had been lodging in one of these houses, were admitted into the Workhouse, where the children at once developed diphtheria and were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where one of them died. A child in Eastworth Road, Chertsey, was also found to be suffering from an attack of it. Lastly, on December 10th, two children in Bridge Road, Chertsey, were pronounced to be suffering from the disease.

Altogether, during the year, 28 cases were notified in 16 houses, 11 of which were in Chertsey. seventeen of the sick were removed to the hospital, where three of them died. Two of the cases ended fatally at home.

(See also Table B. at the end of the Report.)



6.—Of *Enteric* (otherwise called *Typhoid*) *Fever*. Eleven cases were notified in 10 houses, six of which were in the Chertsey Ward and four were in the Addlestone Ward. None of the illnesses ended fatally. Seven of the sick were removed to the hospital. Further particulars are given in the following Table:

Situation of Premises.	Dates of Attacks.	Persons Attacked.	Probable Source of Infection.	Other Remarks.
Windsor Street, Chertsey.	1897. Dec. 21st.	Woman	London	Diagnosis confirmed by the Widal test. No local defect discovered. Water from local well, which was afterwards abandoned.
Flemish Fields, Chertsey.	1898 Jan. 4th.	Man.	Out of the District.	He failed nine days after commencing to reside here. Re-action to Widal test not very marked.
Chilsey Green, Chertsey.	June 2nd (bed on 7th).	Man.	Unknown	He worked out of the district from May 25th to May 27th. No local defect discovered. Patient removed to hospital on June 14th.
Drill Hall Road, Chertsey.	Sept. 4th.	Child, aged 3 years.	A "Wasting" Cesspool close to house.	Diagnosis confirmed by the Widal test. Another child ill at same time with diarrhoea.
Chapel Park, Addlestone.	Sept. 9th.	Youth, aged 17 years.	Local Defect of Drain and Cesspool.	He worked at Chertsey. Patient removed to hospital on September 23rd.
Grove Road, Chertsey.	Sept. 25th.	Youth, aged 15 years.	Unknown.	No local defect discovered. He worked daily at house in Guildford Street.
St. Ann's Road, Chertsey.	Oct.	Woman	Local Defects of Privy and Drains.	Patient removed to hospital on October 7th.
Simplemarsh Road, Addlestone.	Oct. 9th. (bed on 14th).	Man.	Unknown.	No local defects. He worked daily out of the district. He ate mussels on Sept. 24th.
Chapel Park Road, Addlestone.	Nov. (bed on 21st).	Woman  Child, aged 4 years.	Local Defects of Drainage.	Patients were removed to the hospital on Nov. 28th.
Station Road, Addlestone.	Nov. 28th.	Child, aged 4 years.	Local Defects of Drainage.	Patient removed to hospital on December 3rd.

7.—*Diarrhoea*, which was unusually fatal to infants last Summer in this district and in several other parts of the County, caused eighteen deaths, sixteen of which were among young children.

The total number of *deaths*, during the year, from these seven diseases (which do not include Membranous croup) was twenty seven, which represent an *Annual Zymotic Death Rate* of 2.1 per 1000 of the population. (See also table B, at the end of the report.)



As regards the other infectious diseases, which have to be notified under the above-mentioned Act:

Of *Membranous Croup*, no case was notified.

Of *Erysipelas*, there were four cases in the Workhouse, one of which ended fatally, and eight cases in eight private houses.

Of *Puerperal Fever*, one case was notified.

Of *Continued Fever*, one case was notified at Addlestone.

The following is a summary of the further *Action* which was taken, during the year, for preventing the spread of some of these diseases:—The houses infected with Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, continued Fever, or Enteric Fever were visited; disinfectants were in most cases supplied and their use explained; isolation of the sick was inculcated, and was assisted by the removal of one case of Scarlet Fever, seven cases of Typhoid Fever, and 17 cases of Diphtheria, to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Ottershaw; nuisances, when found on the premises, were abated as far as was practicable; the well water, when suspected, was analyzed; and, after the removal, or recovery, of the sick, the cleansing and disinfection of the houses and infected articles were secured. Infected articles were destroyed at several houses by order of the District Council, and compensation given. Infected bedding, and other articles, were also removed to the hospital from 23 of the houses and were disinfected in the Washington Lyon steam disinfectant.

The number of persons who were admitted into the Joint Hospital from each constituent district during the year, with the nature of their illness, is shown in the following table:—

Diseases.	Chertsey Rural.	Chertsey Urban	Weybridge Urban	Walton Urban	Total in 1898	Total in 1897	Total in 1896	Total in 1895	Total in 1894	Total in 1893	Total in 1892	Total in 1891	Total in 1890	Total in 1889	Total in 1888	Total in 1887	Total in 1886	Total in 1885	Total in 1884	Total in 1883	Total in 1882
Scarlet Fever ...	8	1	11	3	23	35	66	47	84	117	10	26	35	12	9	29	29	14	42	32	59
Diphtheria ...	2	17		2	21	23	26	30	28	15	46	14	5	7	2	5		3	1	1	6
Typhoid Fever ...	1	7		1	9	4	1		1	1						2	5	2	1	1	2
Measles ...											1	1			1						
Small Pox ...																					

### III.—Summary of other proceedings which were taken, during the year, under the Sanitary Acts.

1.—The systematic *Removal of House Refuse*, and the *Cleansing of Tub Closets* (of which there are upwards of 1000 in the District) and of *Privies and cesspools*, were undertaken by the Council, as in previous years, the matters collected being taken to their depôts at Addlestone and Chertsey, and made into manure.

In January, the District Council applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow money for the purchase of the land forming their Fordwater depôt at Chertsey but the Board, after holding an Enquiry into the matter in March, declined to sanction the loan.



2.—Particulars as to the *Nuisances*, discovered and dealt with, during the year, are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Among other matters which engaged the attention of the Sanitary Committee were (a) complaints of the effluvia arising from their dépôt at Addlestone; (b) complaints of the nuisance caused by the disposal of the slop water, &c., at the Village Homes, Addlestone; (c) the nuisance caused by the traffic in manure at Chertsey and Addlestone stations; (d) the nuisances inseparable from the cesspool system in some portions of the district.

3.—As to *Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal*. Partly in consequence of these complaints and of further complaints from the Thames Conservators of the pollution of the streams in the district with house drainage, the District Council in the Autumn inserted advertisements in the newspapers, inviting engineers, before the end of the year, to submit competitive schemes for laying sewers in Chertsey and Addlestone and for the purification of the sewage at one outfall and at two separate outfalls.

4.—*House to House* inspections were again made by my deputy and myself, and lists of the defects thus discovered were presented to the Sanitary Committee. Representations were made to the Council under Sec. 30 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, with reference to 11 houses at Chertsey which, in my opinion, were unfit for human habitation, and before the end of the year four of them were ordered by the Justices to be closed.

5.—The Sanitary Committee discussed the question of ascertaining the wholesomeness of the *ice creams* which were sold in the district, and of supervising the places where this article of food is made, but no action was taken in the matter, the Council not being the Authority charged with the execution of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

6.—The Local Government Board, in returning the draft of the *Amended Bye-Laws relating to New Buildings* which were in force in the district, objected to the proposal to reduce the distance from houses at which cesspools may be constructed from 50ft. to 30ft., and after they had caused an enquiry to be held at Chertsey into the matter in September, intimated that they adhered to their decision not to sanction the construction of cesspools so near to dwelling-houses. The Council would not give way, and the amended bye-laws still await confirmation.

7.—In pursuance of their desire to satisfy themselves as to the purity of the water in the private bells still in use in the district, the Council caused further samples from them to be analyzed during the year with the results shewn in the following table :

Situation of Wells.	Number of Samples reported by Analyst to be "polluted" or "unfit for domestic use."	Number of samples reported to be of "suspicious" or "doubtful" quality.	Number of samples found fairly good.	Total Number Analysed.
Chertsey Ward ... ..	11	7	12	30
Addlestone Ward ... ..	6	1	2	9
Outer Ward... ..	4	0	2	6
Total Samples analysed in 1898 ...	21	8	16	45
Do. do. in 4 years, 1895-8... ..	81	16	28	125

The Surveyor states that during the year in compliance with notices served by order of the Sanitary Committee most of the wells which were pronounced, either in the preceding years or in this year, to be "polluted" or "suspicious," were abandoned and water was provided from the mains of the West Surrey Water Company.

Samples of the water supplied to houses in the district from the mains of the West Surrey Water Company were pronounced on a chemical and bacteriological examination to be satisfactory.

E. L. JACOB.

17, Spencer Park,

Wandsworth Common, S.W.,

January, 1899.



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[FORM ISSUED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.]

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# Chertsey Urban District Council.



CLERK:  
T. E. H. CHALDECOTT,  
SOLICITOR.

*Chertsey,  
Surrey.*

*24<sup>th</sup> / 2 / 1899*

*With T. E. H. Chaldecott's Compliments*  
*—H—*



